

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend Claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 15, 16 and 29-32 as follows:

Claims 1 and 2 Canceled.

3. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for clamping a thin rod (3) of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm in two mutually-spaced clamping locations for holding said rod extended between the two clamping locations,

said arrangement comprising first clamping means arranged to clamp said rod (3) in a first ~~said~~ clamping location, said first clamping means having a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove (24), and a second clamping member (21) having a substantially flat opposing clamp face for retaining the rod in the groove, wherein

the first clamping member is movably arranged with respect to a framework of the ~~apparatus~~ arrangement and the ~~apparatus~~ arrangement further comprises driving means for moving the first clamping member having the grooved clamp face towards and away from the second clamping member for clamping and releasing said rod, respectively, and

said first clamping member (22) being movable for clamping and releasing said rod is received in a guide (44) of the ~~apparatus~~ arrangement and removable from the apparatus by pushing and/or lifting it out of the guide for exchange.

4. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 3, wherein said guide is constituted by a slot (44) having a bottom (42) on which said clamping member is intended to rest and lateral walls (43) intended to guide the clamping member in said

movement, and the clamping member (22) is removable from the apparatus by lifting it out of the guide.

5. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 3, wherein said first movable clamping member comprises a block-like piece (22) resting only through gravity in said guide.

6. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for clamping a thin rod (3) of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm in two mutually-spaced clamping locations for holding said rod extended between the two clamping locations,

said arrangement comprising first clamping means arranged to clamp said rod (3) in a first ~~said~~ clamping location, said first clamping means having a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove (24), and a second clamping member (21) having a substantially flat opposing clamp face for retaining the rod in the groove, wherein

the first clamping member is movably arranged with respect to a framework of the ~~apparatus~~ arrangement and the apparatus further comprises driving means for moving the first clamping member having the grooved clamp face towards and away from the second clamping member for clamping and releasing said rod, respectively, and

one (21) of said clamping members is fixed with respect to a framework (45) of the ~~apparatus~~ arrangement.

7. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 6, wherein it further comprises at least one member (14) having at least one inclined surface and means for moving said member laterally towards a rod being clamped in only a second of said two clamping locations before clamping it in the first clamping location through said first clamping means with the inclined surface (17, 18) into abutment against the rod for influencing the rod by sliding thereof upon said surface for reaching the position desired for said first clamping location before clamping the rod in that location.

8. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 7, wherein it comprises one or more said members (14) having together at least two said inclined surfaces (17, 18), which are oppositely inclined with respect to a plane including said two clamping locations and adapted to be moved by said moving means (19) laterally towards said rod for moving the rod to a seat in an intersection between said two inclined surfaces (17, 18) as seen in the direction from one clamping location to the other.

9. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 7, wherein said inclined surface (17, 18) or surfaces is (are) designed for adjusting the height of said rod (3) at said first clamping location before the latter is clamped there.

10. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for clamping a thin rod (3) of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm in two mutually-spaced clamping locations for holding said rod extended between the two clamping locations,

said arrangement comprising first clamping means arranged to clamp said rod (3) in a first ~~said~~ clamping location, said first clamping means having a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove (24), and a second clamping member (21) having a substantially flat opposing clamp face for retaining the rod in the groove, wherein

the first clamping member is movably arranged with respect to a framework of the ~~apparatus~~ arrangement and the ~~apparatus~~ arrangement further comprises driving means for moving the first clamping member having the grooved clamp face towards and away from the second clamping member for clamping and releasing said rod, respectively, and

said arrangement additionally it comprises a second means (1) arranged to clamp said rod in a second ~~said~~ clamping location, the second clamping means is movable in the longitudinal direction of said rod extended between the two clamping locations, the ~~apparatus~~ arrangement comprises means (12) for moving the second clamping means in said longitudinal direction for extending a rod clamped by said arrangement for applying a longitudinal tension load to the rod (3).

11. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 10, wherein it further comprises means (13) for measuring said tension load and means (40) for influencing said moving means (12) for adjusting the tension load on the basis of information about the tension load from said measuring means.

12. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 11, wherein said adjusting means comprises a computer (40) communicating with the tension load measuring means (13) for adjusting said tension load to a value that may be set by the computer.

13. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 6, wherein it is adapted to hold optical fibers.

14. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 6, wherein it is adapted to hold said rods having a diameter below 600 μm , below 300 μm and preferably between 50 and 200 μm .

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaving thin rods (3) of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm, comprising a rod cleaving blade (27), adapted to be brought into lateral contact with such a rod at a desired cleaving point between said two clamping locations, to achieve cleaving of said rod at said point, ~~wherein it comprises an arrangement for clamping said rod and comprising~~

first clamping means arranged to clamp said rod (3) in a first ~~said~~ clamping location, said first clamping means having a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove (24), and a second clamping member (21) having a substantially flat opposing clamp face for retaining the rod in the groove, wherein

the first clamping member is movably arranged with respect to a framework of the apparatus and the apparatus further comprises compressed air driving means (19) mounted to contact the first clamping member (22) at an end opposite said grooved clamp face (23) for moving the first clamping member having the grooved clamp face towards and away from the second clamping member for clamping and releasing said rod, respectively.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 10, and wherein the second ~~clamping~~ means (1) thereof is adapted to clamp said rod in a said second ~~said~~ clamping location belonging to the part of the cleaved rod intended for later use.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said means (12) for moving said clamping means (1) is adapted to automatically move the rod part clamped by said second clamping means away from the cleaving point upon cleaving of the rod as a consequence of said tension load applied therethrough.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein it further comprises a body (28) carrying the blade and driving means adapted to act upon said body for causing a relatively steady movement of the blade towards said desired cleaving point while subjecting the blade to a relatively small-amplitude vibratory component of movement towards and away from said cleaving point superimposed to said relatively steady movement towards the cleaving point.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said body (28) is of a material varying its length through application of electric and/or magnetic fields therein, said driving means is adapted to achieve said movements of the blade by influencing said body electrically and/or magnetically for creating length variations of the material thereof, and the driving means is adapted to make the body and by that the blade vibrate with a relatively small-amplitude component having a frequency below 1 kHz towards and away from the cleaving point for cleaving said rod.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said driving means is adapted to make the blade vibrate with a frequency below 750 Hz, between 100 and 700 Hz or between 250 and 450 Hz.

21. (Withdrawn) A method for clamping thin rods of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm in two mutually-spaced clamping locations for holding the rod extended between these two clamping locations;

in which said clamping is in a first clamping location carried out by creating a relative movement of a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove, and a second clamping member (21) having a flat opposing clamp face (25) for retaining the rod in the groove for clamping the rod,

wherein in said clamping said first clamping member (22) having the groove is moved towards the second clamping member (21) being fixed with respect to a framework (45) of an apparatus for cleaving said rods for clamping said rod.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for clamping thin rods of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm in two mutually-spaced clamping locations for holding the rod extended between these two clamping locations;

in which said clamping is in a first clamping location carried out by creating a relative movement of a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove, and a second clamping member (21) having a flat opposing clamp face (25) for retaining the rod in the groove for clamping the rod,

wherein in said clamping at least one of said clamping members is moved for creating a rectilinear relative movement of said clamping members towards each other for clamping said rod.

23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 22, wherein said second clamping member (21) is kept fixed with respect to a framework (45) of an apparatus for cleaving thin rods while moving said first clamping member (22) having grooved clamp face in said clamping.

24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein it further comprises a step of adjusting the position of a rod being clamped in a second of said two clamping locations before clamping it according to said clamping step in the first clamping location, in which at least one member (14) having at least one inclined surface (17, 18) is moved laterally towards said rod with the inclined surface into abutment against the rod for influencing the rod by sliding thereof upon said surface for reaching a position

desired for said first clamping location.

25. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 24, wherein in said adjusting step one or more said members (14) having together at least two said inclined surfaces (17, 18), which are oppositely inclined with respect to a plane including said two clamping locations, are moved laterally towards said rod for moving the rod to a seat in an intersection between said two inclined surfaces as seen in the direction from one clamping location to the other.

26. (Withdrawn) A computer program directly loadable into the internal memory of a computer, comprising software code portions for controlling the steps of claim 21 when said program is run on the computer.

27. (Withdrawn) A computer program according to claim 26, provided at least partially through a network as the Internet.

28. (Withdrawn) A computer readable medium, having a program recorded thereon, where the program is to make a computer control the steps of claim 21.

29. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for clamping a thin rod (3) of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm in two mutually-spaced clamping locations for holding said rod extended between the two clamping locations,

said arrangement comprising first clamping means arranged to clamp said rod (3) in a first ~~said~~ clamping location, said first clamping means having a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove (24), and a second clamping member (21) having a substantially flat opposing clamp face for retaining the rod in the groove,

wherein the arrangement further comprises driving means (26) adapted to move at least one of said clamping members for creating a rectilinear relative movement of said clamping members (21, 22) towards and away from each other for clamping and releasing said rod, respectively, and

said clamping member (22) being movable for clamping and releasing said rod is received in a guide (44) of the apparatus and removable from the apparatus by pushing and/or lifting it out of the guide for exchange.

30. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for clamping a thin rod (3) of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm in two mutually-spaced clamping locations for holding said rod extended between the two clamping locations,

said arrangement comprising first clamping means arranged to clamp said rod (3) in a first ~~said~~ clamping location, said first clamping means having a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove (24), and a second clamping member (21) having a substantially flat opposing clamp face for retaining the rod in the groove,

wherein the arrangement further comprises driving means (26) adapted to move at least one of said clamping members for creating a rectilinear relative movement of

said clamping members (21, 22) towards and away from each other for clamping and releasing said rod, respectively, and

one (21) of said clamping members is fixed with respect to a framework (45) of the arrangement apparatus.

31. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for clamping a thin rod (3) of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm in two mutually-spaced clamping locations for holding said rod extended between the two clamping locations,

said arrangement comprising first clamping means arranged to clamp said rod (3) in a first said clamping location, said first clamping means having a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove (24), and a second clamping member (21) having a substantially flat opposing clamp face for retaining the rod in the groove,

wherein the arrangement further comprises driving means (26) adapted to move at least one of said clamping members for creating a rectilinear relative movement of said clamping members (21, 22) towards and away from each other for clamping and releasing said rod, respectively, and

~~it comprises a~~ second means (1) arranged to clamp said rod in a second said clamping location, the second clamping means is movable in the longitudinal direction of said rod extended between the two clamping locations, the apparatus comprises means (12) for moving the second clamping means in said longitudinal direction for extending a rod clamped by said arrangement for applying a longitudinal tension load to the rod (3).

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for cleaving thin rods (3) of glass or quartz having a diameter below 1 mm, comprising a rod cleaving blade (27), adapted to be brought into lateral contact with such a rod at a desired cleaving point between said two clamping locations, to achieve cleaving of said rod at said point, wherein it comprises an arrangement for clamping said rod and comprising

first clamping means arranged to clamp said rod (3) in a first ~~said~~ clamping location, said first clamping means having a first clamping member (22) with a clamp face (23) of substantially V-groove type, for receiving the rod in the groove (24), and a second clamping member (21) having a substantially flat opposing clamp face for retaining the rod in the groove,

wherein the arrangement further comprises compressed air driving means (26) mounted adapted to contact at least one of the clamping members (22, 21) at ends opposite the respective clamp faces (23) and move at least one of said clamping members for creating a rectilinear relative movement of said clamping members (21, 22) towards and away from each other for clamping and releasing said rod, respectively.